

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing remarks, claims 1-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 11 being the independent claims. Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kirihata, et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,764,655 (Kirihata). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Kirihata describes an integrated circuit chip having self-programmable built in self test capabilities (BIST) and non-volatile memory so that the chip may test itself and store the results on-ship. (Kirihata, col. 3, lines 23-27). The test results can then be read later by an external device or a system into which the chip is installed. (Kirihata, col. 5, lines 23-26). In addition, the external device can communicate a retest command to the chip. Kirihata does not teach or suggest any manipulation of the measured data by the chip or external device. Furthermore, in Kirihata, neither the external device nor the internal BIST use the test results to correct for parameters in the operational portion of the chip.

Kirihata does not teach or suggest each and every element of independent claims 1 and 11. Specifically, Kirihata does not teach or suggest a method including "(a) receiving at least one digitized sense signal from the integrated circuit chip, whereby the at least one digitized sense signal represents a corresponding process-dependent

parameter within the integrated circuit chip; and (b) determining an analog value for the at least one process-dependent circuit parameters from the corresponding at least one digitized signal; wherein the process-dependent parameter is measured within a processor monitor portion of the integrated circuit and the at least one determined analog value is utilized to correct for the process-dependent parameter in an operational portion of the integrated circuit," as recited in claim 1.

In addition, Kirihata does not teach or suggest a system including "means for receiving at least one digitized sense signal from the integrated circuit chip, whereby the at least one digitized sense signal represents a corresponding process-dependent parameter within the integrated circuit chip; and means for determining an analog value for the at least one process-dependent circuit parameters from the corresponding at least one digitized signal; wherein the process-dependent parameter is measured within a process monitor portion of the integrated circuit and the at least one determined analog value is utilized to correct for the process-dependent parameter in an operational portion of the integrated circuit," as recited in independent claim 11.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Kirihata. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and claims 12-14 depend from claim 11. For at least the above reasons, and further in view of their own features, claims 2-4 and 12-14 are patentable over Kirihata. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-10 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kirihata. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, some motivation or suggestion must exist in the reference or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 493, 20 USPQ 1438, 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Second, the reference must reveal a reasonable expectation of success. *Id.* Finally, the reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).

Claims 5-10 depend from claim 1 and claims 15-20 depend from claim 11. As described above, Kirihata does not teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claims 1 and 11. For at least these reasons, and further in view of their own features, dependent claims 5-10 and 15-20 are patentable over Kirihata. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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